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Motor Statistical Division

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U.S.CAR POPULATION INCREASE LAST YEAR
THIRD-LOWEST SINCE WORLD WAR II, WHILE
TRUCK GROWTH SET RECORD, POLK CENSUS SAYS

DETROIT -- The growth in the number of trucks in use was more than double the increase in passenger cars operating in the United States during the year ended June 30, 1989. Truck registrations were 53.2 million last mid-year, an increase of 2.9 million from mid-1988, while the passenger car population was 122.8 million, up 1.2 million units from the previous year.

Those were the major findings of the 65th annual motor vehicle registration census by R. L. Polk & Co., the statistician for the automotive industry. The census report covers the period from July 1, 1988 through June 30, 1989.

"The growth in the passenger car population was the lowest since the recession year of 1982 and the third lowest since the Second World War," said R. D. Borthwick, Vice President and Manager of Polk's Automotive Replacement Market Services. "And, that's despite new car sales of more than 10.2 million during the year that ended June 30, 1989."

Borthwick noted that 8.9 million passenger cars were scrapped during the period, which was the second-highest volume of scrappage in history. (The highest, 9.3 million cars, was during the year that ended June 30, 1979.)

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"Interestingly, the combination of relatively robust new car sales and near-record scrappage has caused the third consecutive decline in the median age of the passenger car fleet," Borthwick said. The median age in mid-1989 was 6.5 years down from 6.8 years in 1988 and 6.9 years in 1987.

"Strong new car sales over the past five years have off-set the heavy scrappage of vehicles produced at the low pace of the 1980-82 recession years," Borthwick said. "The result is that the aging trend of the car fleet we saw in the early 80's actually reversed in the second half of the decade and the fleet started getting younger."

The increase in trucks in operation last July was the largest year-to-year rise in history, according to Polk's vehicle registration census. The truck population grew at a rate of 5.9 percent while the passenger car population increased by an even 1.0 percent.

"This situation really comes as no surprise, after eight consecutive years of increasing sales of new trucks," Borthwick said. "It does demonstrate consumer acceptance of the light truck as a part of the changing mix of the U.S. vehicle population."

Polk's report showed that 2.2 million trucks were scrapped during the year ending last June 30, which was approximately the same number as the previous year. With the significant increase in the number of new trucks in operation and the number of units scrapped, the median age of the truck population dropped to 6.7 years from 7.1 years in the previous reporting period.

Polk's annual vehicle registration census is produced from official state registration records. It is marketed to vehicle manufacturers and the automotive aftermarket in addition to the tire, oil, glass and insurance industries. State and federal government agencies also use the Polk census for studies involving environmental, energy and vehicle safety issues.

R. L. Polk & Co. employs approximately 6,500 persons in more than 50 office and production locations in North America and overseas. In addition to being the "official scorekeeper" for the auto industry, Polk is the principal publisher of city directories in the U.S., the leading publisher of bank directories world-wide, and a major direct mail marketer.

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TRUCK SCRAPPAGE AND GROWTH IN THE U.S.

TRUCKS IN USE		TRUCKS IN USE		GROWTH OF TRUCKS IN USE DURING PERIOD	NEW TRUCKS REGISTERED 7/1 - 6/30	TRUCKS SCRAPPED DURING PERIOD	GROWTH % OF TRUCK IN USE	SCRAPPAGE % OF NEW TRUCKS REGISTERED DURING PERIOD	SCRAPPAGE % OF TRUCKS IN USE ON JULY 1
JULY 1, 1946	5,068,792	JUNE 30, 1947	5,932,381	863,589	827,261	(36,328)	17.0	4.4	.7
JULY 1, 1947	5,932,381	JUNE 30, 1948	6,605,290	672,909	980,569	307,660	11.3	31.4	5.2
JULY 1, 1948	6,605,290	JUNE 30, 1949	7,087,128	481,838	966,083	484,245	7.3	50.1	7.3
JULY 1, 1949	7,087,128	JUNE 30, 1950	7,577,037	489,909	1,006,963	517,054	6.9	51.3	7.3
JULY 1, 1950	7,577,037	JUNE 30, 1951	8,064,883	487,846	1,147,854	660,008	6.4	57.5	8.7
JULY 1, 1951	8,064,883	JUNE 30, 1952	8,419,855	354,972	886,807	531,835	4.4	60.0	6.6
JULY 1, 1952	8,419,855	JUNE 30, 1953	8,692,574	272,719	888,651	615,932	3.2	69.3	7.3
JULY 1, 1953	8,692,574	JUNE 30, 1954	8,800,408	107,834	888,347	780,513	1.2	87.9	9.0
JULY 1, 1954	8,800,408	JUNE 30, 1955	9,162,444	362,036	829,695	467,659	4.1	56.4	5.3
JULY 1, 1955	9,162,444	JUNE 30, 1956	9,544,082	381,638	977,895	596,257	4.2	61.0	6.5
JULY 1, 1956	9,544,082	JUNE 30, 1957	9,775,950	231,868	862,171	630,303	2.4	73.1	6.6
JULY 1, 1957	9,775,950	JUNE 30, 1958	10,056,567	280,617	782,862	502,245	2.9	64.2	5.1
JULY 1, 1958	10,056,567	JUNE 30, 1959	10,532,145	457,578	847,663	372,085	4.7	43.9	3.7
JULY 1, 1959	10,532,145	JUNE 30, 1960	10,802,959	270,814	961,382	690,568	2.6	71.8	6.5
JULY 1, 1960	10,802,959	JUNE 30, 1961	11,042,770	239,811	886,602	646,791	2.2	73.0	6.0
JULY 1, 1961	11,042,770	JUNE 30, 1962	11,463,381	420,611	996,514	575,903	3.8	57.8	5.2
JULY 1, 1962	11,463,381	JUNE 30, 1963	11,902,039	438,658	1,158,697	720,039	3.8	62.1	6.3
JULY 1, 1963	11,902,039	JUNE 30, 1964	12,444,964	542,925	1,322,795	779,870	4.6	59.0	6.6
JULY 1, 1964	12,444,964	JUNE 30, 1965	13,126,579	681,615	1,417,590	735,975	5.5	51.9	5.9
JULY 1, 1965	13,126,579	JUNE 30, 1966	14,356,591	530,012	1,603,605	1,073,593	4.0	66.9	8.2
JULY 1, 1966	14,356,591	JUNE 30, 1967	14,988,491	631,900	1,578,549	946,649	4.4	60.0	6.6
JULY 1, 1967	14,988,491	JUNE 30, 1968	15,684,917	696,426	1,556,968	860,542	4.6	55.3	5.7
JULY 1, 1968	15,684,917	JUNE 30, 1969	16,586,368	901,451	1,867,454	966,003	5.7	51.7	6.2
JULY 1, 1969	16,586,368	JUNE 30, 1970	17,687,505	1,101,137	1,938,310	837,173	6.6	43.2	5.0
JULY 1, 1970	17,687,505	JUNE 30, 1971	18,462,287	774,782	1,818,659	1,043,877	4.4	57.4	5.9
JULY 1, 1971	18,462,287	JUNE 30, 1972	19,772,938	1,310,651	2,358,682	1,048,031	7.1	44.4	5.7
JULY 1, 1972	19,772,938	JUNE 30, 1973	21,411,931	1,638,993	2,846,529	1,207,536	8.3	42.4	6.1
JULY 1, 1973	21,411,931	JUNE 30, 1974	23,312,245	1,900,314	2,947,521	1,047,207	8.9	35.5	4.9
JULY 1, 1974	23,312,245	JUNE 30, 1975	24,812,843	1,500,598	2,408,297	907,699	6.4	37.7	3.9
JULY 1, 1975	24,812,843	JUNE 30, 1976	26,560,296	1,747,453	2,844,910	1,097,457	7.0	38.6	4.4
JULY 1, 1976	26,560,296	JUNE 30, 1977	28,221,661	1,661,365	3,329,018	1,667,653	6.3	50.1	6.3
JULY 1, 1977	28,221,661	JUNE 30, 1978	30,564,701	2,343,040	3,769,334	1,426,294	8.3	37.8	5.1
JULY 1, 1978	30,564,701	JUNE 30, 1979	32,582,991	2,018,290	3,934,432	1,916,142	6.6	48.7	6.3
JULY 1, 1979	33,893,909 *	JUNE 30, 1980	35,267,535	1,373,626	3,105,296	1,731,670	4.1	55.8	5.1
JULY 1, 1980	35,267,535	JUNE 30, 1981	36,069,197	801,662	2,320,208	1,518,546	2.3	65.4	4.3
JULY 1, 1981	36,069,197	JUNE 30, 1982	36,986,537	917,340	2,376,135	1,458,795	2.5	61.4	4.0
JULY 1, 1982	36,986,537	JUNE 30, 1983	38,143,304	1,156,767	2,647,738	1,490,971	3.1	56.3	4.0
JULY 1, 1983	38,143,304	JUNE 30, 1984	40,142,872	1,999,568	3,601,457	1,601,889	5.2	44.5	4.2
JULY 1, 1984	40,142,872	JUNE 30, 1985	42,386,882	2,244,010	4,344,130	2,100,120	5.6	48.3	5.2
JULY 1, 1985	42,386,882	JUNE 30, 1986	44,825,523	2,438,641	4,747,731	2,309,090	5.8	48.7	5.4
JULY 1, 1986	44,825,523	JUNE 30, 1987	47,344,319	2,518,796	4,882,776	2,363,980	5.6	48.4	5.3
JULY 1, 1987	47,344,319	JUNE 30, 1988	50,221,502	2,877,183	5,127,715	2,250,532	6.1	43.9	4.8
JULY 1, 1988	50,221,502	JUNE 30, 1989	53,201,657	2,980,155	5,169,005	2,188,850	5.9	42.3	4.4

NOTE: ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE ABSENCE OF OKLAHOMA AND OTHER STATES HAVE BEEN MADE WHERE APPLICABLE.

* THE TRUCKS IN USE TOTAL AS OF JULY 1, 1979 HAS BEEN ADJUSTED (INCREASED) TO REFLECT THE TRANSFER OF 1,310,918 WINDOW VANS FROM THE PASSENGER CAR TOTAL TO THE TRUCK TOTAL. (BY INDUSTRY STANDARDS, WINDOW VANS WERE RECLASSIFIED - EFFECTIVE 1980.)

R. L. POLK & CO.
STATISTICAL SERVICES DIVISION

TOTAL PASSENGER CAR & TRUCK SCRAPPAGE AND GROWTH IN THE U.S.

VEHICLES IN USE		VEHICLES IN USE		GROWTH OF VEHICLES IN USE DURING PERIOD	NEW VEHICLES REGISTERED 7/1 - 6/30	VEHICLES SCRAPPED DURING PERIOD	GROWTH % OF VEHICLES IN USE	SCRAPPAGE % OF NEW VEHICLES REGISTERED DURING PERIOD	SCRAPPAGE % OF VEHICLES IN USE ON JULY 1
JULY 1, 1946	30,211,420	JUNE 30, 1947	33,453,776	3,242,356	3,684,076	441,720	10.7	12.0	1.5
JULY 1, 1947	33,453,776	JUNE 30, 1948	36,573,009	3,119,233	4,282,410	1,163,177	9.3	27.2	3.5
JULY 1, 1948	36,573,009	JUNE 30, 1949	39,817,846	3,244,837	4,949,123	1,704,286	8.9	34.4	4.7
JULY 1, 1949	39,817,846	JUNE 30, 1950	43,500,620	3,682,774	6,513,641	2,830,867	9.2	43.5	7.1
JULY 1, 1950	43,500,620	JUNE 30, 1951	46,580,421	3,079,801	7,453,226	4,373,425	7.1	58.7	10.1
JULY 1, 1951	46,580,421	JUNE 30, 1952	48,189,596	1,609,175	5,278,999	3,669,824	3.5	69.5	7.9
JULY 1, 1952	48,189,596	JUNE 30, 1953	50,894,923	2,705,327	5,787,195	3,081,868	5.6	53.3	6.4
JULY 1, 1953	50,894,923	JUNE 30, 1954	53,187,521	2,292,598	6,564,111	4,271,513	4.5	65.1	8.4
JULY 1, 1954	53,187,521	JUNE 30, 1955	56,540,414	3,352,893	7,067,988	3,715,095	6.3	52.6	7.0
JULY 1, 1955	56,540,414	JUNE 30, 1956	59,348,059	2,807,645	7,716,661	4,909,016	5.0	63.6	8.7
JULY 1, 1956	59,348,059	JUNE 30, 1957	61,208,410	1,860,351	6,799,807	4,939,456	3.1	72.6	8.3
JULY 1, 1957	61,208,410	JUNE 30, 1958	62,549,076	1,340,666	6,064,518	4,723,852	2.2	77.9	7.7
JULY 1, 1958	62,549,076	JUNE 30, 1959	65,618,906	3,069,830	6,423,556	3,353,726	4.9	52.2	5.4
JULY 1, 1959	65,618,906	JUNE 30, 1960	67,905,635	2,286,729	7,326,016	5,039,287	3.5	68.8	7.7
JULY 1, 1960	67,905,635	JUNE 30, 1961	69,897,150	1,991,515	6,932,424	4,940,909	2.9	71.3	7.3
JULY 1, 1961	69,897,150	JUNE 30, 1962	72,382,960	2,485,810	7,422,487	4,936,677	3.6	66.5	7.1
JULY 1, 1962	72,382,960	JUNE 30, 1963	75,395,316	3,012,356	8,473,412	5,461,056	4.2	64.4	7.5
JULY 1, 1963	75,395,316	JUNE 30, 1964	78,496,379	3,101,063	9,200,219	6,099,156	4.1	66.3	8.1
JULY 1, 1964	78,496,379	JUNE 30, 1965	82,066,349	3,569,970	10,010,318	6,440,348	4.5	64.3	8.2
JULY 1, 1965	82,066,349	JUNE 30, 1966	85,620,329	3,553,980	10,801,085	7,247,105	4.3	67.1	8.8
JULY 1, 1966	85,620,329	JUNE 30, 1967	87,956,177	2,335,848	10,266,711	7,930,863	2.7	77.2	9.3
JULY 1, 1967	87,956,177	JUNE 30, 1968	91,042,951	3,086,774	10,147,333	7,060,559	3.5	69.6	8.0
JULY 1, 1968	91,042,951	JUNE 30, 1969	95,081,306	4,038,355	11,352,846	7,314,491	4.4	64.4	8.0
JULY 1, 1969	95,081,306	JUNE 30, 1970	98,135,968	3,054,662	11,352,819	8,298,157	3.2	73.1	8.7
JULY 1, 1970	98,135,968	JUNE 30, 1971	101,599,611	3,463,643	10,528,561	7,064,918	3.5	67.1	7.2
JULY 1, 1971	101,599,611	JUNE 30, 1972	106,211,895	4,431,284	12,537,344	8,106,060	4.4	64.7	8.0
JULY 1, 1972	106,211,895	JUNE 30, 1973	111,217,090	5,055,195	14,200,115	9,194,920	4.7	64.8	8.7
JULY 1, 1973	111,217,090	JUNE 30, 1974	115,919,796	4,702,706	12,943,592	8,240,886	4.2	63.7	7.4
JULY 1, 1974	115,919,796	JUNE 30, 1975	120,053,445	4,133,649	10,710,056	6,576,407	3.6	61.4	5.7
JULY 1, 1975	120,053,445	JUNE 30, 1976	124,378,517	4,325,072	12,251,432	7,926,360	3.6	64.7	6.6
JULY 1, 1976	124,378,517	JUNE 30, 1977	128,125,255	3,746,738	13,648,316	9,901,578	3.0	72.5	8.0
JULY 1, 1977	128,125,255	JUNE 30, 1978	133,521,414	5,396,159	14,729,528	9,333,369	4.2	63.4	7.3
JULY 1, 1978	133,521,414	JUNE 30, 1979	137,259,498	3,738,084	14,966,500	11,228,416	2.8	75.0	8.4
JULY 1, 1979	137,259,498	JUNE 30, 1980	139,831,316	2,571,818	12,708,481	10,136,663	1.9	79.8	7.4
JULY 1, 1980	139,831,316	JUNE 30, 1981	141,907,779	2,076,463	11,137,489	9,061,026	1.5	81.4	6.5
JULY 1, 1981	141,907,779	JUNE 30, 1982	143,853,645	1,945,866	10,325,934	8,380,068	1.4	81.2	5.9
JULY 1, 1982	143,853,645	JUNE 30, 1983	147,104,519	3,250,874	10,984,389	7,733,515	2.3	70.4	5.4
JULY 1, 1983	147,104,519	JUNE 30, 1984	152,161,512	5,056,993	13,333,810	8,276,817	3.4	62.1	5.6
JULY 1, 1984	152,161,512	JUNE 30, 1985	157,049,215	4,887,703	14,716,417	9,828,714	3.2	66.8	6.5
JULY 1, 1985	157,049,215	JUNE 30, 1986	162,093,594	5,044,379	15,795,934	10,751,555	3.2	68.1	6.8
JULY 1, 1986	162,093,594	JUNE 30, 1987	167,193,088	5,099,494	15,566,830	10,467,336	3.2	67.2	6.5
JULY 1, 1987	167,193,088	JUNE 30, 1988	171,740,576	4,547,488	15,555,205	11,007,717	2.7	70.8	6.6
JULY 1, 1988	171,740,576	JUNE 30, 1989	175,960,035	4,219,459	15,389,609	11,170,150	2.5	72.6	6.5

NOTE: ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE ABSENCE OF OKLAHOMA AND OTHER STATES HAVE BEEN MADE WHERE APPLICABLE.

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